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To the Rishworth Urban District Council.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1925.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my report for the year 1925.

General Statistics :—

Area (acres) 6551.
Population 861.
Number of inhabited houses, 218.
Rateable Value, £7276 11s. 3d.
Sum represented by a penny rate, £30 7s. 4d.

Extracts from vital statistics of the year :—

Births legitimate total 15—Males 6, Females 9 } Rate 17.4 per 1,000.
Illegitimate nil.

Deaths total 11—Males 8, Females 3 - Rate 12.7 per 1,000.

There were no deaths under one year ; the infant mortality for the past five years has been 41 per 1,000 births.

The average birth-rate for the past five years has been 11.1 per 1,000; and the average death-rate for the same period has been 11.6 per 1,000.

The causes of the deaths do not call for any special comment save that one death resulted from each of the following diseases :—Influenza, Cancer, and Pulmonary Tuberculosis. A decade ago Pulmonary Tuberculosis was a frequent cause of death, but during the last five years there has been only one death from this disease which is a matter of congratulation. The number of deaths from Cancer during the past five years has been three.

Notification of Infectious (Diseases') Act.—No cases have been reported during the year. For the past five years the notifications have been :- two from Scarlet Fever, one from Diphtheria, and one from Pulmonary Tuberculosis ; indicating that your district has been practically immune from from notifiable infectious disease.

Water Supply.—The Public Supply has been constant and of good quality. There have been no complaints as regards the shortage or purity of any private supply.

Scavenging.—This has been carried out satisfactorily. There have been no conversions to the water carriage system ; this is regrettable as sewers and public water are available.

Factories and Workshops.—Their condition is satisfactory, and there have been no cases of illness traceable to any of the industries. Cotton is the main industry, a few being employed in the Paper trade.

Housing and Town Planning.—No houses have been built. The district has been thoroughly surveyed, some of the houses classified as not reasonably fit for habitation cannot be remedied owing to the position they occupy. There is no density of houses, and practically no back to back houses (only two). At the present time there is no great demand for houses, however the building of scullery houses by the Council might be a means of attracting tenants who desire better houses than the ones they now occupy.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—Your Inspector has seen to the whitewashing and general cleanliness. Structural alterations are rarely carried out, the lighting in a good many being defective. Cleaner methods in the production of milk will shortly be set out in new regulations. However I believe farmers are beginning to realise that the public when it buys milk has a right to insist that it shall be pure. The need is for more and better milk, and increased consumption will follow when it is know it is produced under the best conditions.

I had the pleasure of giving the Health Lecture at the Public Elementary School.

A sum of £85 17s. 10d. has been paid out in Poor Law relief. During the last five years the Public Vaccinator has only vaccinated 9 children.

I am glad to report that the inhabitants avail themselves of the Tuberculosis Dispensary and the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at Sowerby Bridge.

In conclusion I may add that the year has been a healthy one, and I trust the Council will consider the questions of public lighting, the supplying of water free to water closets, and the conversion of privy middens to the water carriage system.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

JOHN HOYLE, M.B.

April 30th, 1926.

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RISHWORTH

Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

for 1925.